

PARTNERING SUCCESS STORY :
The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)/Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Partnering

Situation:

The three agencies, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) all have different organizational missions and roles. Through collaboration the three agencies needed to find ways to mutually and satisfactorily meet all their missions and roles together.

Challenge:

Create a Memorandum of Understanding and an Operating Agreement that would be functional for all three agencies.

Partnering Practices:

- *All three agencies:*
 - *collaborate in the practice of environmental stewardship*
 - *work together to achieve a quality product*
 - *approach every issue with a partnering attitude*

Outcomes:

- Lessons were learned from the history of the relationships between the three agencies
- Roles and responsibilities of participants in the partnership were made clear
- Subgroups were formed (ROW, NEPA, ADOT Kingman District) and guidelines were generated that would apply to all of the future meetings of these subgroups
- An ADOT-funded BLM employee was assigned to the Kingman District to fill a gap in the resources needed by BLM so that recurring issues could be resolved
- The subgroups created glossaries of key terminology relating to their agencies to gain a better understanding of each other's processes and needs
- The ROW subgroup created many standard documents and processes to improve interagency granting of right of way (processes were improved and shortened)
- The series of meetings and workshops allowed the partnership to continuously refine their roles as part of a partnership between ADOT, BLM AND FHWA with special emphasis in the ADOT Kingman District
- BLM Director recommended ADOT and FHWA for the "4 C's Award" (The 4 C's stand for cooperation, consultation and communication in service of conservation)

- The partnership has spanned from 2000 to the present and continues to meet annually to update the agreements, identify new issues and needed changes